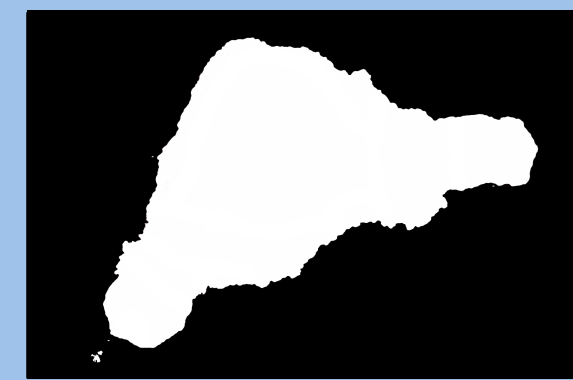
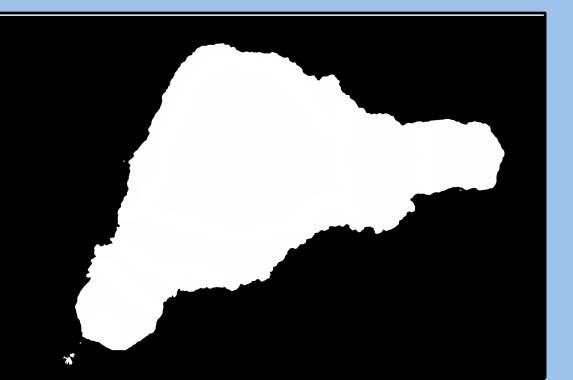




Landscapes of Construction - Rapa Nui



Introduction

The Landscapes of Construction Project aims to improve our understanding of the methods and dates of quarrying work at Puna Pau. This collaborative project between archaeologists from British Universities and Rapa Nui is providing the first ever archaeological results from the Puna Pau Pukao quarry. Below we provide further information on our previous work at Puna Pau, our current research inside the crater quarry and our on going collaborations with Rapa Nui. We hope that this project will provide new ways in which the extraordinary cultural achievements of early Rapa Nui can be understood and admired around the world.

Previous Work

Survey 2009 and 2012

A multifaceted survey was undertaken of the whole of Puna Pau. Between 2009 and 2012. This survey identified the location of the Ara Pukao (road) coming out of the crater and winding down the north side towards the eastern valleys. This survey also recorded detailed images of the visible Pukao that facilitated interpretation of their wider landscape context and provides important data to help monitor their long-term conservation.

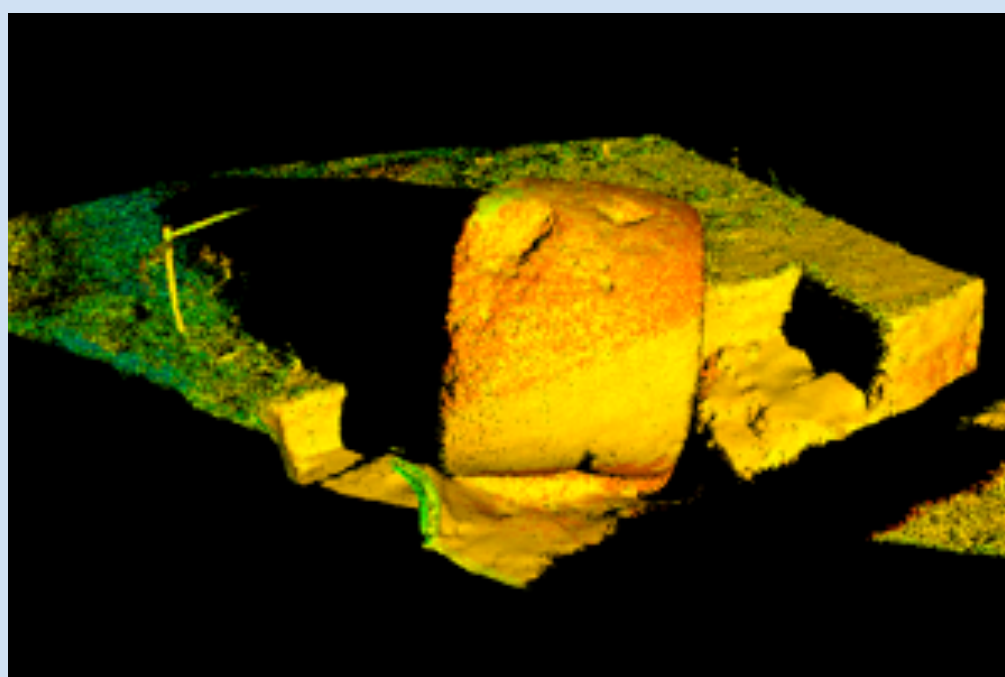


Figure 1: 3D recording of the Pukao.

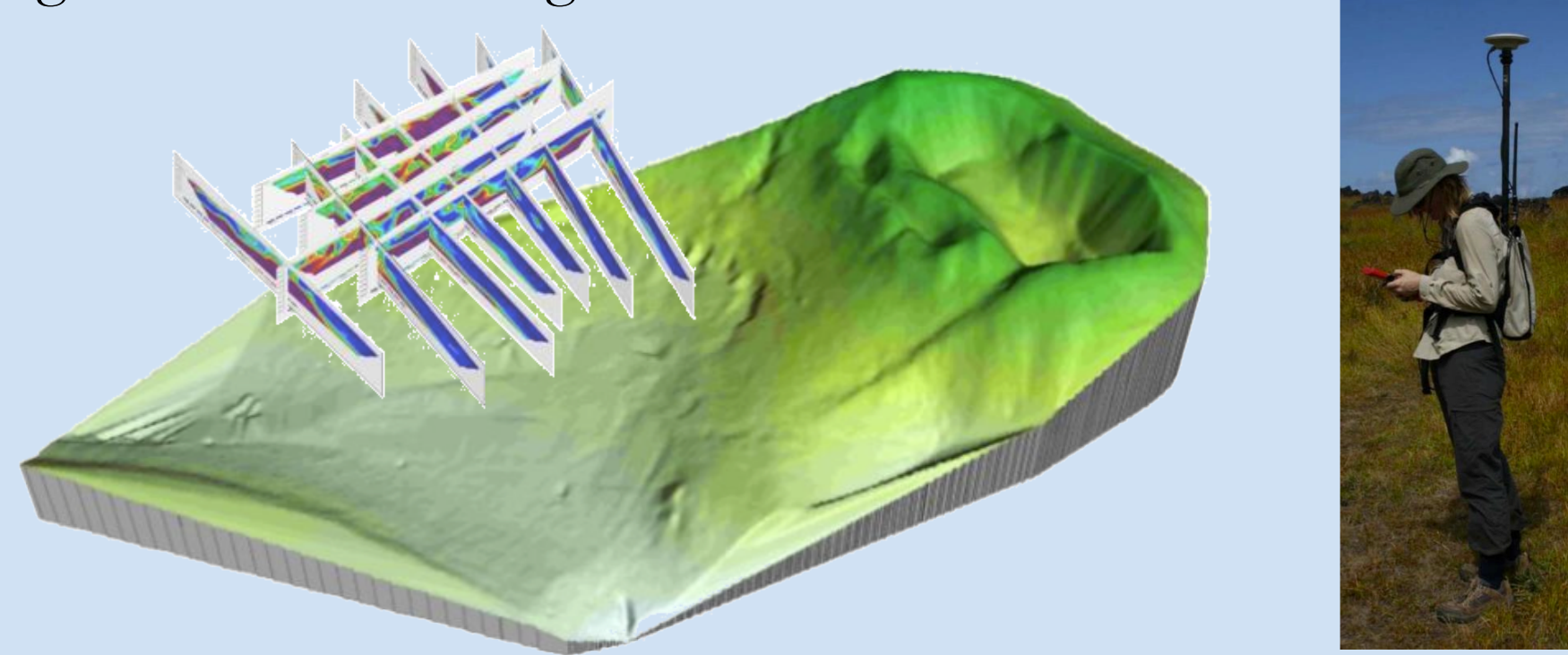


Figure 2: a. Digital terrain model and locations of geophysical survey. b. Global Positioning System survey in progress.

Excavation 2009 and 2012

In 2009, we excavated a small trench to identify and investigate the Pukao road down the North side of the crater. This study revealed the construction of the Pukao road, a ramp and pit beneath the Pukao (Fig 3). This appears to suggest that the Pukao by the side of the road were deliberately placed. Three samples of obsidian were taken from different levels of the excavation and sent for obsidian hydration dating. These dates provide evidence that the Pukao may have been placed by the side of the road c.1350 AD. The other two dates of C.1450 AD and C.1650 AD provides potential evidence of longer-term activity at Puna Pau.



Figure 3: a. Obsidian Adze. b. Excavation in progress in 2009 with visiting students being shown around.

In 2012 we excavated a small trench next to the interior southern face of the Puna Pau crater (Fig.4). We identified evidence of how the Pukao were quarried from the red Scoria bedrock (hani hani) and discovered a pair of 'eyes' like those seen at Rano Raraku.



Fig. 4: Excavation of the exposed red scoria rock face; carved 'eyes'.

Stone tools, most of a distinct tabular lava from Rano Kau, were used to quarry and finish the Pukao. Fragments of many of these were found during the excavation (Fig.5). Their size and shape closely matches tool marks distinguishable on the excavated quarry face. Debitage from making obsidian tools was also discovered



Fig. 5: Stone tools found during excavations at Puna Pau.

Excavation 2013

This year we are continuing our trench at the crater face with the aim of examining further evidence for extracting the Pukao from the quarry. A further trench is located over the linear geophysical anomaly (A) to see if this is an extension of the Ara Pukao.

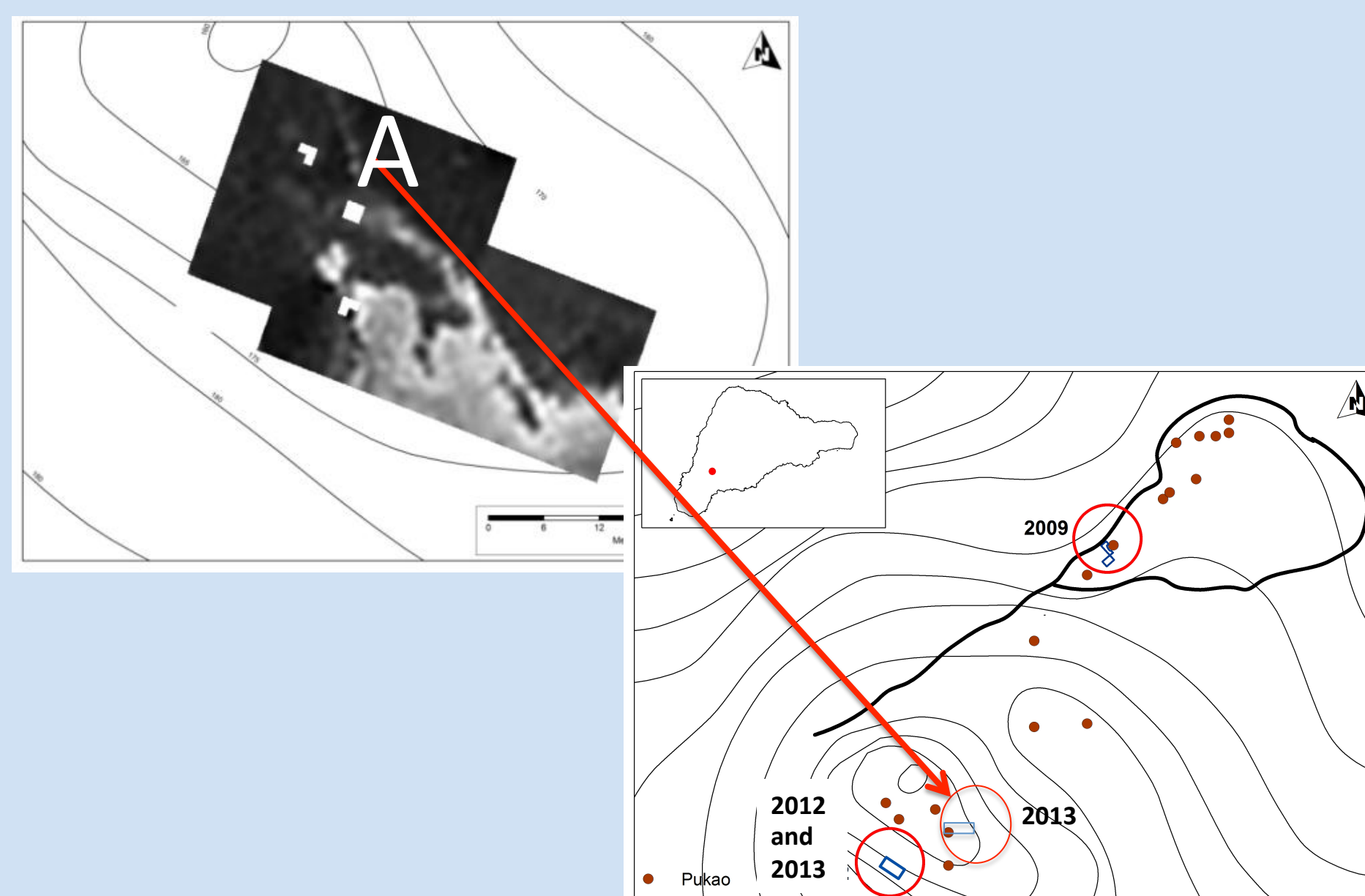


Figure 6: Geophysical data from inside the crater indicating a possible Pukao road and trench locations 2009, 2012 and 2013.

Collaboration

Rapa Nui Archaeologists

This project is being conducted in collaboration with Rapa Nui archaeologists working together with project staff from British universities. The current excavation is being supervised by the eminent archaeologist Don Sorobabel Fati and involves Rapa Nui students currently studying archaeology at the University of Santiago.



Figure 7: a. Rapa Nui schoolchildren visiting the Puna Pau excavation and participating in 2009. b. Tiki Paua undertaking geophysical survey.

Rapa Nui Youth and the Museo de P. Sebastian Englert

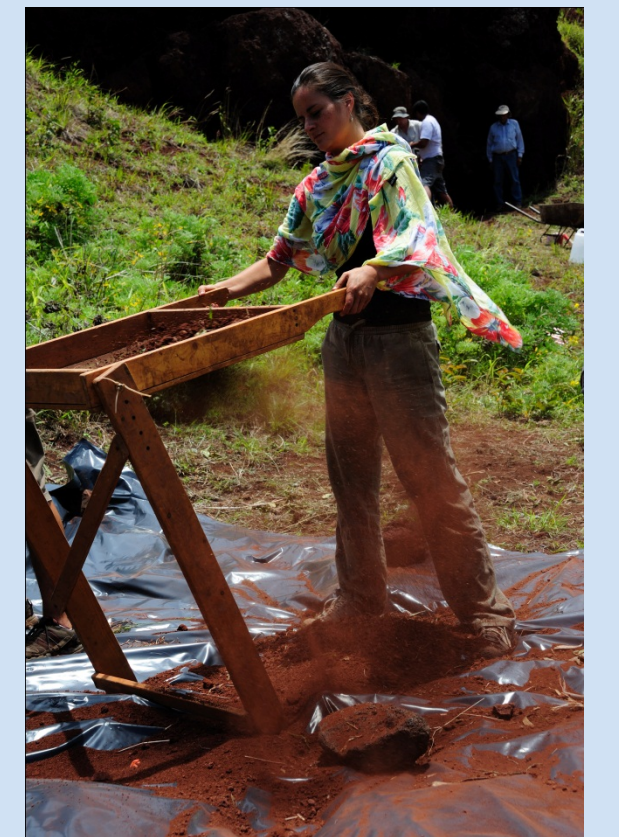
The youth embody the future aspirations of any society and in this regard we always try to involve and inspire the youth of Rapa Nui with our research. In collaboration with the Museo de P. Sebastian Englert, and director Francisco Torres, we organize a series of open days for site visits, talks and hands on experience for Rapa Nui school children.



Figure 8: Rapa Nui students, Joaquin Soler Hotu, Isaias Hey Gonzalez, Francisca Villanueva, conducting geophysical survey.

CONAF and Rapa Nui Heritage

This project is carried out in close cooperation with CONAF with the aim of working towards the protection and long term conservation of these internationally recognized archaeological sites.



- This is a collaborative archaeological project between British Universities and Rapa Nui
- The aim of the project is to improve our understanding of the quarrying activities and chronology of Puna Pau
- We have identified the road leading out of the quarry and suggest that the Pukao have been intentionally positioned by the side of the road
- The dating of archaeological samples suggests quarrying activity has been ongoing at Puna Pau between c. AD1350-AD1650
- The current work inside the crater will reveal key information regarding the nature of quarrying activities at Puna Pau